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EL SALVADOR: Government forces are in control of the country following the coup attempt this weekend.

The attempted overthrow, which caused an estimated 600 casualties, was led by Colonel Benjamin Mejia, an officer with little past political involvement. It had the support of a number of younger officers but involved only the 1st Infantry Brigade and the Artillery Brigade. President Sanchez was held prisoner for ten to 12 hours but was freed unharmed on Saturday afternoon when the first rebel installation fell to government forces.

The rebels said they were dissatisfied with the way the recent elections were conducted, but the take-over was planned and initiated without the knowledge of opposition leaders. Nevertheless, Jose Napoleon Duarte, the defeated coalition's presidential candidate, went on radio around mid-day Saturday urging support for the rebel junta. Duarte and two other civilians involved have been promised their freedom provided they leave the country at once. No decision has yet been made as to the fate of the military personnel involved, but a number of persons are seeking asylum in local embassies.

This weekend's bloodletting may have exhausted the strength of those discontented with the outcome of this year's elections, and the limited military support given the coup attempt will probably convince the opposition that another such attempt would be futile. Sanchez and President-elect Molina, who will be inaugurated on 1 July, now have the difficult task of restoring public confidence.

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BANGLADESH: Food stocks are unusually low but some help is on the way.

Government foodgrain stocks reportedly have declined to 257,000 tons, the lowest level in at least several years. Rice prices in Dacca are now 30-percent higher than they were during the famine scare last fall.

The UN estimates that Bangladesh will need to import 200,000 tons of foodgrain monthly through December. Over one million tons have already been pledged by foreign donors. India has sent 116,000 tons and has agreed to speed up the delivery of an additional 384,000 tons. The US has pledged 375,000 tons, Canada 100,000 tons, and the USSR 30,000 tons. Burma also is providing 65,000 tons on a barter basis. Islamabad, which traditionally supplied rice to the east wing, has offered 122,000 tons of rice, but Dacca has not yet accepted.

Transport bottlenecks are keeping food stocks from moving inland in sufficient amounts from the ports of Chittagong and Chalna. In an effort to speed upcountry deliveries, the UN is using foreign contributions, including \$35.3 million from the US, to provide additional transport equipment. In addition, the USSR has sent seven salvage ships, three mine-sweepers, and two other naval craft, which are to arrive at Chittagong next week. They will be used to clear the port of sunken vessels and mines laid during the war last year.

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LAOS: The North Vietnamese are holding their positions on Skyline Ridge despite persistent government attacks. Vang Pao's irregulars this weekend assaulted enemy positions on the western and central portions of the ridge, but were turned back by enemy fire.

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accurate air strikes and artillery fire have caused heavy enemy casualties.

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The irregulars have not suffered heavily in their attacks.

YUGOSLAVIA: Belgrade is alarmed that the current outbreak of smallpox will damage a major hard-currency earning industry--tourism. Over 20 cases and three deaths have been reported since Muslim pilgrims returning from Mecca brought the disease back to the province of Kosovo in mid-March. The disease has spread to Belgrade where two of the three deaths have occurred and where two hospitals have been quarantined. A nationwide vaccination program is under way, however, and the Yugoslavs have the situation under control. Yugoslavia earned some \$200 million in hard currency from tourism last year.

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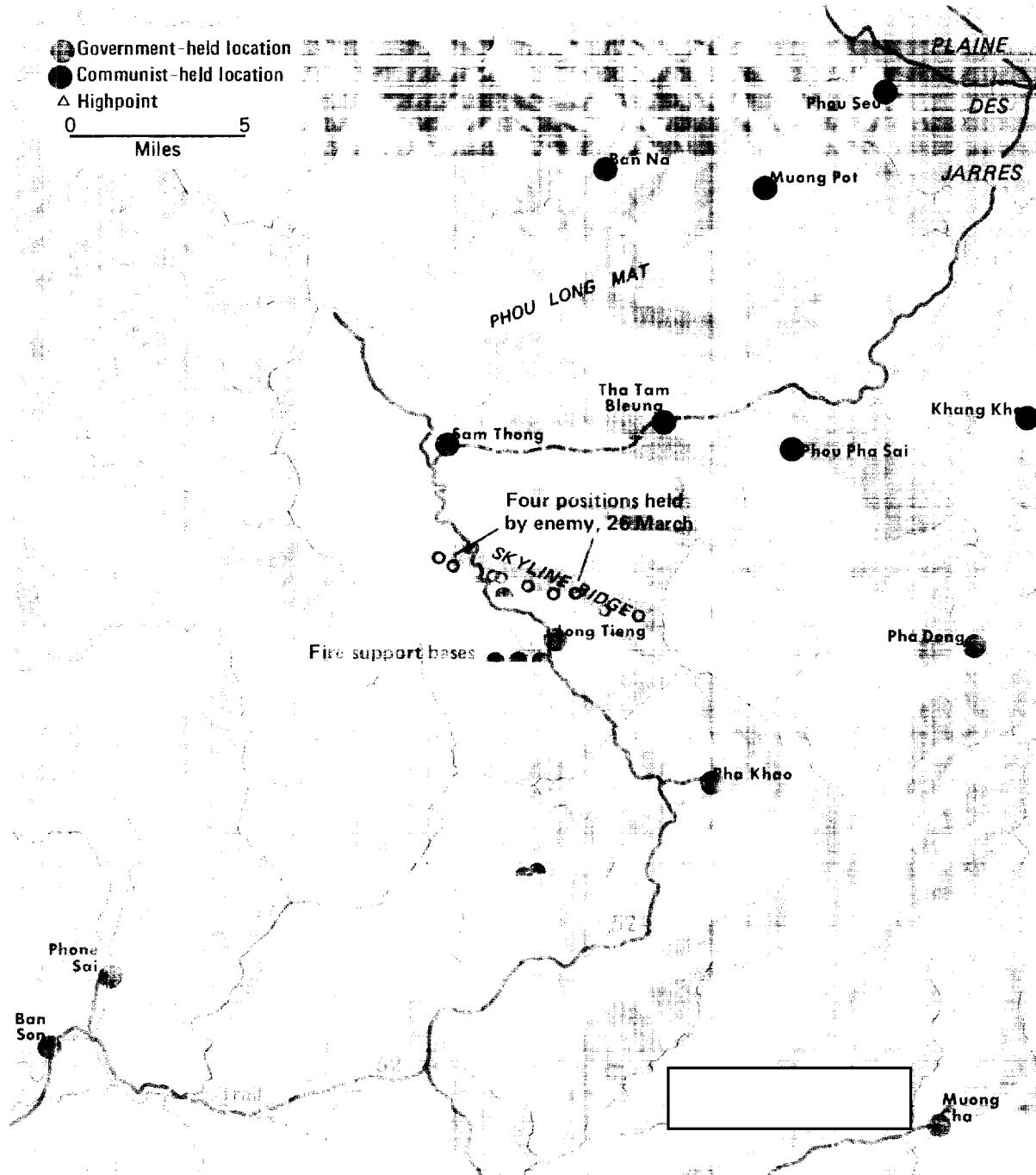
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